

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



*First*  
**PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
of Cumberland, MD

*Empowered to love, serve, care, and give*

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

WE GATHER TOGETHER  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ARR. JACOB WEBER

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

KYRIE (MISSA BONUM)  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR  
Lord, have mercy upon us  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ROLAND MARTIN

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Come and see, come and see!

**We come to see for ourselves who this Jesus person is.**

Come and see, come and see!

**We come with open hearts to experience Jesus**

Come and see, come and see!

**We come to follow Jesus**

Come and see, come and see!

**We come to deepen our relationship with God.**

Come and see, come and see!

**Yes, Lord we come to follow you!**

Let us pray -

**Holy One - Open our eyes to the world around us. Show us what we should see.**

**Give us the courage to do what you ask.**

**Open our eyes to the shape of your Kingdom. Show us what life could be like**

**if only we could see in wisdom. Show us what we could do to change things forever with you.**

**Give us the courage to have your vision.**

**Open our eyes to the people all around us. Show us what we should see, but what we fail to notice.**

**Show us what people are saying to us and what they long for. Give us the courage to be where you are. Amen.**

### \* HYMN #14

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

"DIX"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Leader, You are constantly pointing us toward Jesus - But too often, we abandon his message and point only to ourselves. We point to our worship preferences rather than the God we worship. We point to our status rather than the grace that makes us all equal. We point to our values rather than the One who has always valued everyone. We point to our traditions rather than to the One who calls us to let go. We point to our past rather than to the One who calls us into the future. Forgive us, Lord, for pointing in all the wrong directions. Amen.

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

*Please stand and greet those in the pews near you. Send a wave to the camera for those joining online.*

*We recognize how important we are to each other; we belong to each other and are stronger together.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 123:1-4

<sup>1</sup>To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

<sup>2</sup>As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until he has mercy upon us.

<sup>3</sup>Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

<sup>4</sup>Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

## ANTHEM

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

MALCOLM ARCHER

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord for he is kind,  
For his mercies ay endure, ever faithful, ever sure.  
Let us blaze his name abroad, for of gods he is the Lord.  
For his mercies ay endure, ever faithful ever sure.  
He the warm and golden sun causes in its course to run;  
And the moon to shine at night mid her starry sisters bright;  
All things living he doth feed, his full hand supplies their need;  
For his mercies ay endure, ever faithful ever sure.

## SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 1:35-42

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup>He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

## SERMON

"WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?"

REV. ALISON PETERS

## \* HYMN #721

COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

"ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR"

## MISSION IN A MINUTE

LIVING HOPE FOR CHILDREN

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

DO NOT BE AFRAID

PHILIP STOPFORD

KATIE HENDRIX, ALISON PETERS, MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANOS; ZACH DODGE, BARITONE; JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Do not be afraid; for I have redeemed you,  
I have called you by your name; you are mine.  
When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;  
You will never sink beneath the waves

When the fire is burning all around you, you will never be consumed by the flames.

When the fear of loneliness is looming then remember I am at your side

When you dwell in the exile of a stranger, remember you are precious in my eyes.

You are mine, O my child, I am your Father and I love you with a perfect love.

## \* DOXOLOGY #694

GREAT GOD OF EVERY BLESSING (Verse 1)

"AURELIA"

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care, you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.  
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

\* HYMN #716

GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING

"BEACH SPRING"

\* BENEDICTION

*At FPC there is a tradition of joining hands while singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" to close our service.  
You are welcome to do whatever feels comfortable during this time. There is no wrong way to participate in worship!*

\* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

"SUO GAN"

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD  
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

SIEGFRIED KARG-ELERT

\* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.  
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

# This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher ..... Rev. Alison Peters  
Liturgist.....David Stickler  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown  
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Katie Hendrix & Mikayla Dodge, Sopranos; Zach Dodge, Baritone  
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler  
Ushers.....Bill & Ann Kellermeyer



**WELCOME:** A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a "Big Tent Church" where everyone is welcome to join us in worshiping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life. We welcome you to worship with us.

**WELCOME VISITORS:** We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at [www.fpc-cumberland.org](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland).

**FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

**PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES:** (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

**SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS:** Please use orange prayer request cards in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering.





**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:** We welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "To Families with Young Children" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship. **Nursery care is provided during worship for all children 4 years of age and younger!**

**THE PRAY-GROUND** is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers.



**THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE:** The Churches of Washington Street will be holding a Thanksgiving Service at 6:00 PM this evening at Emmanuel Episcopal. Join us as we give thanks together!

**HANGING OF THE GREENS:** Join us on **Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>** for our Hanging of the Greens event. We will begin the evening at 5:00 PM with pizza followed by the decorating of the church. Join us for an evening of Christmas cheer at our intergenerational gathering designed to prepare us for the birth of Christ.



**FAMILY ADVENT CALENDARS:** Advent calendars are available for pick up in the back of the sanctuary.

**A DIVINE INVITATION: A TIME OF PREPARATION FOR ADVENT:** Join Rev Martha Macgill for a time of quiet preparation and fellowship as we approach Advent and Christmastide. **With Advent starting a bit later in the calendar year, in 2023, we invite you to gather at Emmanuel Parish on the Sunday after Thanksgiving (November 26) from 4:00 - 8:00 PM.** We will enjoy meditations led by Rev Martha on the unique invitation by God to each of us in Advent and also spend time in fellowship with supper together. We will end the evening with a final mediation and Night Prayers together. End your Thanksgiving holidays with a time of reflection for the coming season. **We are asking folks to bring a side dish to share and make a small donation to the Community Cafe project.** For questions or to register early, please email Rev Martha at [soulpacecumberland@gmail.com](mailto:soulpacecumberland@gmail.com).

**ADVENT INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT:** Join us on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 PM for our Advent Event. Our event will begin with a catered meal followed by a devotional, Holiday Bingo, Trivia, Crafts, photo opportunity and cookie decorating. We will also be stuffing 30-50 bags of goodies to be taken to the Possibility Shop for their patrons. **Please RSVP using the QR Code or contact the church office by Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**



On Tuesday, November 28th, Jane O' Rourke will be turning 99 years old! We would like to help her celebrate by showering her with birthday cards. If you would like to send a birthday greeting, please use the address below to send your warm wishes.

Jane O' Rourke  
10119 Mockingbird Ln SW  
LaVale, MD 21502-6153

**SOCK DRIVE:** Join us as we hope to warm some soles by keeping the toes of area children and adults toasty this winter in Allegany and Mineral County. We will be collecting socks now through Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> in the bin in the main hallway of FPC.



**CHORAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY CONCERTS:** Join the Cumberland Choral Society this holiday season for an Eclectic Christmas! The concert will be held at First Presbyterian Church on **Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** and **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM**. The concert will feature a diverse set of works embracing both the traditional and the modern.



**PEB 25 YEAR CELEBRATION:** Join Friends of PEB on **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 PM** for a "Zoom Party" in honor of 25 years since denationalization of PEB schools in Pakistan. Connect with PEB's Executive Director Veda Gill and other staff members of PEB as they share stories and pictures of the past and dreams for the future. Please join us and meet other PEB supporters from all over the US.



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of her mother, Phyllis "Perk" Smith, by Nancy Hodges.



Please note that the church office will be **CLOSED** on **Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** and **Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>** in observance of **Thanksgiving**. **Brittany** will also be out of the office on **Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**. The Office will be open on those days **9:00 AM-12:00 PM** by an office volunteer.

#### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of November 5, 2023</b>
Total 2023 Pledges Promised	\$219,970.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 13,282.00
<u>2023 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$206,688.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$184,141.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$175,483.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 8,658.00

**PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2024** are available in the pews and in the back of the sanctuary. Pledges were dedicated during worship last Sunday, but you can make or update your pledge at any time. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.



#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER (20)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER (21)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
E-NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER (22)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL  
7:00 PM NA MEETING

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER (23)

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER (24)

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER (25)

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER (26)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. [Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]

Ways to contact Pastor Alison: call, text, or email: 814-715-1681 / [revalisonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:revalisonpeters@gmail.com)

To help with scheduling,  
please reach out to the Church Office:  
301-777-3700/ [firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com)



## Christmas Poinsettias 2023

If you wish to dedicate a Christmas poinsettia, please complete the tear-off sheet below and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office **by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for the 7:30PM Christmas Eve service. If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please do so after the service. If you do not wish to keep your poinsettia, please indicate below. Additional donations may also be made toward the Christmas flowers.

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check for \$7.00 for each poinsettia, marked "CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA".

Number of poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$7.00 each                      Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my poinsettia: ☐

I wish to donate my poinsettia: ☐

Additional Contribution for Christmas flowers: \$ \_\_\_\_\_                      Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** (Please circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your order no later than December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Christmas Music Offering 2023



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL GIFT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to dedicate Christmas Music in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the tear-off sheet and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

Please print all the names exactly as you would like them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check designated "Christmas Music 2023" in the memo line. Proceeds from the Christmas Music Offering will be used to help defray the costs of seasonal guest musicians. **Please submit offering and dedication no later than Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving ALL and fostering justice, peacemaking, and care of creation.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

We aspire to be nurtured by the good news of God's love, where ALL God's children are:

- Welcomed and appreciated
- Called to worship, learn, and grow together in faith
- Encouraged to care for one another
- Sent to show God's love

-Adopted by the Session on September 21, 2023

### **SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

#### **CLERK OF SESSION**

Carolyn Mathews

#### **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**

Carl Belt & Cindy Corley

#### **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

#### **CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH**

Mikayla Dodge & Linda Mellon

#### **FAITH FORMATION**

Josh Gilhart & Ann Kellermeyer

#### **MISSION**

Aaron Hendrickson & Brenda Luger

#### **WORSHIP & MUSIC**

Sharon Kazary & Mike Levitas